

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00315 181302Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----093867 181308Z /17

O R 181225Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5846
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 614

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0315

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS -3
TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET, UNSC
SUBJECT: SIAD DEFERS RESPONSE OF OGADEN WITHDRAWAL

REF: STATE 42000

1. SIAD RECEIVED ME EARLY THIS AFTERNOON, FEB 18. I SET FORTH SOME OF THE RATIONALE FOR TAKING THE OGADEN MATTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT UNDERScoreD OUR SUPPORT FOR THE OAU EFFORT AS WELL. I ASKED THE PRESIDENT POINT BLANK WHETHER THERE WERE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THE SOMALI NATIONAL ARMY WOULD WITHDRAW AS A PART OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. HE SAID HE COULD NOT RESPOND AT THIS TIME. HE POINTED OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD SOUGHT CERTAIN CLARIFICATIONS FROM THE WESTERN POWERS THIS MORNING (MOGADISCIO 0314). THESE ANSWERS WOULD BE STUDIED, HE SAID, AND CONSIDERED. HE PROMISED ME A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. THE SOMALI LEADER THEN SAID THE ABOVE WAS HIS OFFICIAL RESPONSE. BUT HE CONTINUED, HE PRIVATELY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE WEST
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DID NOT PRESSURE THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS TO WITHDRAW. HE PROFESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT THE WEST HAD GIVEN THE SOVIET UNION CARTE BLANCHE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. REFERRING TO KOSYGIN'S FEBRUARY 16 STATEMENT AT THE KREMLIN DINNER FOR LIBYA'S JALLUD, SIAD WARNED THAT IT IS A BAD PRECENT FOR ALL OF AFRICA TO PERMIT THE KREMLIN LEADERSHIP TO DICTATE THE TERMS OF A SETTLEMENT. SIAD REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO PEACE, BUT HE SAID IT MUST BE

A PEACE THAT LEADS TO A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT, AND THIS, HE
ADDED, CANNOT BE REALIZED AS LONG AS THERE IS A SOVIET PRESENCE.
THEY MAY OCCUPY OUR CITIES, HE ADDED, BUT WE WILL NOT SURRENDER
TO THE SOVIET UNION.

3. SIAD APPEARED MORE DRAWN AND UNDER STRAIN THAN WHEN I
LAST SAW HIM. HE PERKED UP TOWARD THE END OF THE BRIEF SESSION,
BUT MADE NO EFFORT TO CONCEAL HIS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH WHAT
HE PERCEIVES AS HIS ABANDONMENT BY THE WEST.
LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

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